

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested . The present invention has been extensively discussed in previously filed response and the following will be addressed to the present office action based on newly cited prior art.

Claims 8-9, 24, 22 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Best (US 4,702,212) in view of Ishiwata et al (US 5,443,047). Applicant submits that independent claims 8 and 22 define subject matter not available from the references or there obvious combination for the following reasons;

- (1) According to the rejection Best has all the elements of the claims except for a spring which is shown by Ishiwata. Applicant submits that Best does not have an annular space between the valve guide and valve member with a "contact area bounded on one side by a step adjoined by a flow optimizing guide surface configured to avoid cavitation". Best is similar to DE19716041 (corresponding US 6,068,236) discussed in the background of the present application and submitted with IDS on April 13, 2000. The guide surface of Best does not have a step . Claim 8 requires both a step 15 and an adjoining flow optimizing guide surface 16. There is no consideration in Best of using the valve

construction to avoid cavitation and certainly not by the claimed step 15 in combination with the guiding surface 16 on the valve member 10. Additionally Claim 22 recites that the step is an offset in a radius of the valve member in combination with the adjoined flow optimizing guide surface. It is noted that the present invention was directed to improving the type of device of Best;

- (2) Ishiwata has been cited for use of a spring with an indication that one skilled in the art would find it obvious to use such a spring in the valve of Best. Applicant submits that Best teach exactly the opposite at Column 3, line 64 to column 4, line 2 wherein he indicates "The valve member will therefore have a natural tendency to open *thereby obviating the need for an opening spring*". Thus one skilled in the art would quite clearly not combine the references to use a spring in Best.

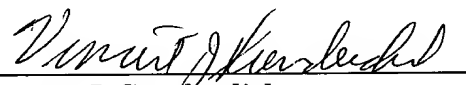
Therefore in view of the distinguishing features between the claimed invention and references, Applicant request that this application be allowed and be passed to issue

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038738.48700).

Respectfully submitted,

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